

## Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-06

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SUBJ: PRESS QUERY RE ARGUS ARTICLE ON CIA

REF: STATE 177048

SOUTH AFRICAN ENGLISH LANGUAGE PRESS OVER WEEKEND PROMINENTLY  
FEATURED STORY OF ALLEGED CIA ACTIVITY IN SOUTH AFRICA. PRETORIA NEWS

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SATURDAY, JULY 24, FRONT-PAGED KEN OWENS REPORT DATED  
WASHINGTON UNDER SEVEN COLUMN HEAD "C.I.A. SPIES IN S. AFRICA".  
FOLLOWING IS TEXT THAT STORY:

" SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICIALS HAVE UNCOVERED EVIDENCE TO SHOW THE  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY HAS BEEN SENDING AGENTS TO THE  
REPUBLIC UNDER FALSE COVER AND IN NUMBERS EVER BEFORE SUSPECTED.

" AT LEAST A DOZEN SUSPECTED AGENTS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED IN A  
SOUTH AFRICAN INVESTIGATION OF AMERICAN OFFICIAL VISITORS TO SOUTH  
AFRICA IN RECENT YEARS. " ALL WERE GRANTED VISAS AT THE REQUEST OF  
THE STATE DEPARTMENT WHICH IDENTIFIED THEM AS TECHNICIANS,  
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERTS, ACCOUNTANTS OR OTHER HARMLESS CATEGORIES OF  
OFFICIALS. " HOWEVER, NONE OF THEM CAN BE TRACED IN ANY GOVERNMENT  
POSITION NOR CAN ANY EXPLANATION BE EXTRACTED FROM AMERICAN OFFICIALS

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THIS LEAVES THE VIRTUALLY INESCAPABLE CONCLUSION THAT THE VISITORS  
WERE CIA AGENTS POSING TEMPORARILY AS OFFICIALS OF OTHER GOVERNMENT  
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DEPARTMENTS.

"IT IS ALSO HIGHLY PROBABLE SOME AMERICAN OFFICIAL VISITORS TO  
SOUTH AFRICA, WHO CAN BE TRACED TO POSITIONS IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT

OR OTHER BUREAUCRACIES, ARE ALSO CIA AGENTS WORKING UNDER LONG RANGE COVER.

" THE SOUTH AFRICAN INVESTIGATION WAS PROMPTED BY THE DISCOVERY IN MARCH THAT A CIA AGENT, MR. ROBERT JASTER, VISITED SOUTH AFRICA UNDER FALSE PRETENCES. HE USED A DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. " THAT HE WAS A CIA AGENT REMAINED UNKNOWN UNTIL AN ARTICLE ON THE ZULUZ WRITTEN BY MR. JASTER APPEARED IN A LOCAL NEWSPAPER. THE ARTICLE BORE THE APPEARANCE OF WHAT THE CIA DEFESCTOR, PHILIP AGEE, CALLS " WHITE PROPAGANDA: -- AS DISTINCT FROM ' BLACK PROPAGANDA' WHICH IS DISSEMINATED SECRETLY. " THE ARTICLE WAS SLANTED, INACCURATE IN PARTS, AND NASTY IN "TONE. IT LET TO THE DISCOVERY MR. JASTER HAD SLIPPED INTO SOUTH AFRICA IN 1972 FOR PURPOSE

STILL UNKNOWN. " A REVIEW OF VISA APPLICATIONS SHOWED MR. JASTER WAS NOT ALONE. AT LEAST A DOZEN SIMILAR CASES WERE UNCOVERED. " WHAT ACTION THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT IS TAKING IS UNKNOWN."

IN ACCOMPANYING SIEDE-BAR BOX HEADED " NOTHING KNOWN" PRETORIA NEWS REPORTED: " COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, GENERAL THEO CROUSE, SAID HE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT ALLEGED INFILTRATION OF CIA AGENTS INTO SOUTH AFRICA. " NEITHER GENERAL HENDRIK VAN DEN BERGH, CHIEF OF THE BUREAU FOR STATE

SECURITY, OR GENERAL MIKE GELDENHUYS, HEAD OF THE SECURITY POLICEN WAS AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT TODAY."

DURBAN SUNDAY TRIBUNE DATED JULY 27 FRONT PAGED A FOLLOW UP REPORT UNDER NINE COLUMN BANNER HEADLINE " AMERICAN SPIES SEEK OUR URANIUM SECRETS" BY LINED EUGENE HUGO. FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT: "AMERICAN CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY SPIES ARE SUSPECTED OF OPERATING IN SOUTH AFRICA IN AN ATTEMPT TO DISCOVER THE SECRETS OF THE COUNTRY'S UNIQUE URANIUM ENRICHMENT PROCESS. " INFORMED SOURCES CLOSE TO THE GOVERNMENT TOLD ME YESTERDAY THAT SOUTH AFRICAN SUSPICIONS WERE ROUSED WHEN TWO AMERICANS WITH PHDS IN PHYSICS WERE APPOINTED TO " INNOCENT DEPARTMENTS' AT THE US EMBASSY. " THE STARTLING INFORMATION THAT THE CIA IS AFTER SOUTH AFRICAN URANIUM SECRETS FOLLOWED WASHINGTON REPORTS THAT SOUTH AFRICAN UNCLASSIFIED

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OFFICIALS HAD UNCOVERED STRONG EVIDENCE THAT THE CIA HAS BEEN SENDING IN AGENTS UNDER FALSE COVER-- AND IN NUMBERS NEVER BEFORE SUS

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PECTED. " AND THE DISCLOSURES COME AT AN AWKWARD TIME WHEN SOUTH AFRICA HAS BEEN FORGING UNOFFICIAL LINKS WITH HIGHLY PLACED AMERICANS, PARTLY IN THE HOPE THAT THE US NAVY WILL USE SIMONSTOWN. " IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAS BEEN LOOKING OUT FOR FOREIGN SPIES EVER SINCE THAT URANIUM ENRICHMENT BREAKTHROUGH WAS ANNOUNCED IN 1971 IN THE FACE OF A SKEPTICAL WORLD. " BUT SINCE THEN SOUTH AFRICA HAS BEEN ABLE TO GIVE TOP SCIENTISTS A GLIMPSE OF HOW THE NEW AND CHEAPER PROCESS WORKS. " THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO MADE KNOWN THAT THE URANIUM ENRICHMENT PROCESS COULD EARN SOUTH AFRICA ABOUT R250

MILLION A YEAR IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE ONCE THE PLANT REACHES FULL OUTPUT. " WEST GERMANY AND JAPAN HAVE SHOWN PARTICULAR INTEREST IN THE ENRICHMENT PROCESS-- BUT ON AN " OFFICIAL LEVEL. " NOW IT IS SUSPECTED THAT AT LEAST 12 AGENTS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED IN AN INVESTIGATION INTO AMERICAN OFFICIAL VISITORS TO SOUTH AFRICA IN RECENT YEAR. " ALL WERE GRANTED VISAS AT THE REQUEST OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT, WHICH IDENTIFIES THEM AS TECHNICIANS, ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERTS, ACCOUNTANTS OR OTHER HARMLESS CATEGORIES OF OFFICIALS. " BUT NONE OF THEM CAN BE TRACED IN ANY GOVERNMENT POSITION, NOR CAN ANY EXPLANATION BE EXTRACTED FROM AMERICAN OFFICIALS. " THIS LEAVES THE INESCAPABLE CONCLUSION THAT THE VISITORS WERE CIA AGENTS POSING TEMPORARILY AS OFFICIALS OF OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS. " THE INVESTIGATION WAS PROMPTED BY THE DISCOVERY IN MARCH THAT A CIA AGENT, MR. ROBERT JASTER, VISITED SOUTH AFRICA UNDER FALSE PRETENCES. HE USED A DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT ISSUED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT. " THE DISCLOSURES ABOUT THE CIA'S SOUTH AFRICAN OPERATION ALSO COMES WHEN THE ORGANISATION IS IN HOT WATER FOR ITS SOMETIMES OUTRAGEOUS ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. AND IT IS NOT IMPOSSIBLE THAT THIS COULD DEVELOP INTO SOUTH AFRICA'S SECOND MAJOR SPY SCANDAL. " THE FIRST WAS IN 1967, WHEN RUSSIAN SPY LOGINOV WAS CAPTURED BY SECURITY POLICE UNDER GENERAL H.J. VAN DEN BERGH, THE " SECRETARY FOR STATE SECURITY. " I UNDERSTAND THE STORY ABOUT CIA ACTIVITIES IN SOUTH AFRICA HAS BEEN DOING THE ROUNDS IN THE HIGHEST GOVERNMENT CIRCLES IN PRETORIA. BUT SO FAR NO SUDDEN DEPARTURES OF US EMBASSY OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN NOTED. " THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN VERY CONSCIOUS OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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POSSIBILITY OF ATTEMPTS BEING MADE TO DISCOVER DETAILS OF THE TOP-SECRET URANIUM PROCESS. " SOON AFTER THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE PROCESS HAD BEEN DISCOVERED, LEGISLATION WAS INTRODUCED CARRYING PENALTIES OF UP TO 10 YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR ANYONE LEAKING INFORMATION. "MEANWHILE NO OFFICIAL COMMENT WAS FORTHCOMING FROM PRETORIA YESTERDAY. " THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DR. HILGARD MULLER, SAID ' I AM SORRY, I CAN'T HELP YOU." " THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR, MR. WILLIAM BOWDLER, WOULD NOT COMMENT. 'I DON'T KNOW WHERE THIS INFORMATION CAME FROM, BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT AT ALL ON STUFF LIKE THAT, ' HE SAID. " IN 1972 MR. ED. HOLMES, AMERICAN CONSUL GENERAL IN DURBAN WHO LEFT SOUTH AFRICA LAST MONTH ON TRANSFER, WAS NAMED AS ' ONE OF THE MOST SENIOR CIA OFFICIALS IN AFRICA'. " A REPORT IN LONDON'S DAILY TELEGRAPH SAID MR. HOLMES, ' AMONG HIS VARIOUS EXPLOITS', INITIATED THE FIRST CONTACTS BETWEEN " THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT AND PRESIDENT BANDA OF MALAWI. MR. HOLMES, HOWEVER, DENIED HE HAD EVER BEEN A CIA AGENT."

RAND DAIL MAIL, MONDAY, JULY 28, IN NEW YORK DATED LINE STORY BY LINED RICHARD WALKER REPORTED " USG IS EXPECTED TO RESPOND TODAY

TO CHARGES THAT CIA REGULARLY SENDS AGENTS TO SOUTH AFRICA DISGUISED AS EVERYDAY VISITORS FROM USG DEPARTMENTS." ACCORDING TO WALKER STORY " SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICIALS IN NEW YORK EMPHASIZE THEY HAVE ' NO HARD EVIDENCE' TO BACK UP THEIR SUSPICIONS AND ARE AT PAINS TO STRESS THE REPUBLIC'S RELAXED, FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH US. " BUT THEY ARE CLEARLY INCENSED AT WHAT THEY THINK IS CLEAR EVIDENCE OF COVERT OPERATIONS BEING CARRIED OUT UNDER SAG NOSE." WALKER STORY ADDED, "A DIPLOMAT IN NEW YORK ALSO STRESSED ' THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE ANYTHING SINISTER IS GOING ON'. " BUT SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITIES ARE CLEARLY DISTURBED BY STRING OF REVELATIONS THAT HAS UNCOVERED VAST EXTENT OF U.S. SPYING ACTIVITIES." ARTICLE CITED ALLEGED U.S. INTELLIGENCE ACTIONS IN WASHINGTON, INCLUDING MAIL " SCRUTINY", EMBASSY BREAK-INS BY FBI, AND MICRO-FILMING OF DIPLOMATIC MESSAGES OF SOUTH AFRICAN POSTIN AMERICA, THEN CONCLUDED, " SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICIALS ARE ALSO CLEARLY DISTURBED BY RECENT CLAIM THAT CIA HAS EVEN USED CHURCH GROUPS IN AFRICA AS COVER. THEY ARE MAKING CLEAR THAT AN OPEN CIA PRESENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA IS NOT UNDER CRITICISM -- THE U.S. INFORMS SOUTH AFRICA OF CERTAIN CIA OFFICIALS ATTACHED TO U.S. STAFF IN THE REPUBLIC." UNCLASSIFIED

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DIE TRANSVALLER OF JULY 28 UNDER HEADLINE " CIA AND OUR URANIUM ARE GUESSES" REPORTED IT APPROACHED GENERAL VAN DEN BERGH, HEAD OF BUREAU OF STATE SECURITY, AND DR. AMPIE ROUX, PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL OF

ATOMIC POWER ABOUT SUNDAY PRESS REPORTS ALLEGING CIA ACTIVITIES IN S.A. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF REPLIES BY THE TWO OFFICIALS

QUOTED BY DIE TRANSVALLER:

GENERAL VAN DEN BERGH: " I'M NOT INTERESTED IN GUESSES. I WOULD, HOWEVER, LIKE TO KNOW IF THE IDENTITY OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICIAL WHO MADE KNOWN THAT CIA AGENTS HAVE BEEN SENT HERE UNDER FALSE PRETENSES TO SPY OUT THE SECRETS OF OUR URANIUM ENRICHMENT PROCESS COULD BE MADE PUBLIC. PERSONALLY I DOUBT IF SUCH AN OFFICIAL EXISTS." DR. ROUX: " THE STRONGEST SECURITY MEASURES WHICH CAN PARACTICALLY BE INITIATED HERE BEGAN IN THE EARLY '60S WHEN WORK ON THE S.A. URANIUM ENRICHMENT PROCESS FIRST STARTED. FROM THE NATURE OF THE MATTER, THE ARRANGEMENTS MUST BE APPROVED AND CARRIED THROUGH ACCORDING TO THE AGENDA.

" THE PROCESS ITSELF IS BEING CARRIED OUT. AT NO STAGE HAS ANY TIME BEEN WASTED IN INTRODUCING THE MEASURES. " ATTEMPTS TO INFILTRATE THE SECURITY NETWORK, WHICH IS BUILT INTO THE PROCESS, WOULD MAINLY FALL OUTSIDE MY AREA, AND IT IS NOT FOR ME TO COMMENT ABOUT THAT ASPECT."

LAST SATURDAY WHEN NEWSMEN CALLED EMBASSY ABOUT STORY COMING OUT IN AFTERNOON PAPER, WE STATED THAT WE HAVE NO COMMENT TO MAKE ON SPECULATIVE STORIES OF THIS NATURE. BOWDLER

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## Message Attributes

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